

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5722

S E C R E T AMMAN 6383

NODIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MASS,PFOR, JO,US

SUBJECT: HAWK MISSILE SALE CONDITIONS

REF: AMMAN 6356 AMMAN 6382

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: JORDANIAN DAILY NEWSPAPER
AR RAY'Y CARRIED FOLLOWING TEXT (UNCLASSIFIED) AS LEAD
STORY TODAY. QUOTE. THE AR RAY'S HAS LEARNED THAT THE
US GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED TO SELL TO JORDAN 14 BATTERIES
OF THE SOPHISTICATED HAWK MISSILES WITHOUT ANY CONDITIONS.
TALKS ARE EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS BETWEEN
THE GENERAL HEADQUARTERS OF THE JORDANIAN ARMED FORCES AND
THE US DEFENSE DEPARTMENT TO AGREE ON THE DATES FOR
DELIVERING THE MISSILES. IN CASE AN AGREEMENT IS
REACHED ON DELIVERY DATES SUITABLE TO JORDAN'S DEMANDS
AND NEEDS, A SALE CONTRACT IS EXPECTED TO BE SIGNED AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE AR RA'Y HAS ALSO LEARNED THAT THE
SALE CONTRACT WILL NOT CONTAIN ANY ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS.
THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONTRACT WILL BE THE SAME AS
THOSE NORMALLY CONTAINED IN US ARMS SALE CONTRACT
WITH ANY COUNTRY: NAMELY THAT THE ARMS WILL BE
USED FOR THE PURPOSES OF LEGITIMATE SELF DEFENSE
AND THE ARMS OWNERSHIP WILL NOT BE TRANSFERED TO
A THIRD PARTY-- OTHER THAN THE PURCHASER-EXCEPT
WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE US GOVERNMENT. IT IS
NOTEWORTHY THAT THE LEGAL PERIOD DURING WHICH THE
US CONGRESS CAN PREVENT THE CONCLUSION OF THE

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DEAL END TOMORROW, MONDAY. THEREFORE IF THE

CONGRESS DOES NOT TAKE VOTE TOMORROW AGAINST THE
SALE OF THE MISSILES TO JORDAN, THEN THIS WOULD
MEAN THAT IT HAS APPROVED THE DEAL. UNQUOTE. END UNCLASSIFIED

2. COMMENT: BEGIN SECRET/NODIS. AR AR'Y STORY WAS PLAYED
SEPT 21 UNDER LEAD HEADLINE "AMERICA AGREES TO SELL
MISSILES WITHOUT CONDITION. DISCUSSION FOR COMING
DAYS REGARDING AGREEMENT ON DELIVERY DATES." RADIO
COVERAGE THUS FAR BEEN CONFINED TO A SINGLE
SUMMARY BROADCAST STATEMENT ON 0800 LOCAL NEWSCAST
OF ABOVE HEADLINES WITHOUT ANY ELEABORATION. HOWEVER
IN VIEW OF HEADLINE TREATMENT OF THE STORY.
CANNOT EXCLUDE FACT THAT LOCAL WIRE SERVICES (REUTERS
AND MENA) WILL PICK IT UP AND THE DEPARTMENT PRESS
OFFICE MAY GET INQUIRIES. OUR SUGGESTED REPLY INCLUDED
IN PARA 4 BELOW.

3. WHILE STORY IS OBVIOUS LEAK, PER REFTELS
IT IS NOT ATTRIBUTED TO JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT SOURCE AND
IS THEREFORE DESIGNED TO AVOID PROVOKING OFFICIAL USG
COMMENT. FURTHERMORE AR RA'Y STORY IS NOT REALLY
INCONSISTENT WITH AN ACCEPTABLE POSITION HAWK CONDITIONS
VIS- A VIS USG. FIRST IT FOCUSES ENTIRELY ON THE SALES
CONTRACT (IE THE DOD LETTER OF OFFER WHICH WILL
INCLUDE STANDARD SELF DEFENSE END USER RESTRICTIONS)
AND AVOIDS ANY EXPLICIT REPUDIATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S
LETTER. SECONDLY, AR RA'Y STORY'S INITIAL CLAIM THAT
HAWK DEAL IS "WITHOUT CONDITIION" IS LATER CONTRADICTED
IN SAME ARTICLE BY ASSERTION THAT SALES CONTRACT WILL
RPT WILL INCLUDE THE STANDARD RESTRICTIONS THAT ARE IN
ALL USG ARMS SALES CONTRACTS, IE LEGITIMATE SELF
DEFENSE AND NON THIRD PARTY TRANSFER CLAUSES.

4. EMBASSY URGES THAT THERE BE NO US GOVERNMENT COMMENT
ON JORDANIAN PRESS SPECULATIONS, IN SAME WAY AS THERE
HAS BEEN NO JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT COMMENT ON SPECULATIVE
US PRIVATE MEDIA STORIES. WE THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT
DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN CONFINE HIMSELF TO STATEMENT THAT:
"WE WILL HAVE NO COMMENT TO MAKE ON SPECULATIVE PRESS
STORIES WHICH HAVE APPEARED IN THE US AND FOREIGN PRESS
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ON THE QUESTION OF THE HAWK SALE TO JORDAN". IF
PRESSED ABOUT OUR POSITION, BELIEVE WE SHOULD TRY AT
ALL COSTS TO GET BY WITH REPEATING "WE ARE
PROCEEDING AS PLANNED" END COMMENT END SECRET/NODIS

PICKERING

SECRET

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